

NEWS

Pittsburgh Marines ‘Race to Anyplace’ to fight cancer



Staff Sgt. Andre Durden, Recruiting Station Pittsburgh, works his way through the race as other competitors push on in the 4th Annual Race to Any Place, a benefit race sponsored by GNC for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Sgt. Michael Wiener

MPA, RS PITTSBURGH

Pittsburgh Marines went on the attack, jumped on bikes, peddled for hours and got nowhere for all their effort. Though they went nowhere, their effort wasn't without gain. Recruiters and headquarters personnel alike saddled up in the 4th Annual Race to Any Place, a benefit race sponsored by GNC for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Recruiting Station Pittsburgh went in as two-time defending champions of the military division. "Of course we wanted to win again," said Sgt. Brian Richard, operations clerk. "Not to sound cliché, but there's more to this than winning. First and foremost, this raised money for some people who need it."

"It's also about camaraderie. At a recruiting station, Marines are almost always consumed with the hectic schedule recruiting duty throws at them," added

Sgt. Robert Morgan, supply clerk. "This event is something we can all come together for. The CO started us off strong, and we took it from there."

The benefit ride lasted six hours, with team members riding a mandatory 15-minute shift. Fifteen minutes didn't sound like too much work for some of the Marines, but they found out the Aerodyne bikes were no joke.

"I hadn't ridden one of those bikes before, but I quickly found out they hurt you," said Cpl. Lucinda Lefas, administration clerk. "It's not a typical stationary bike. Fifteen minutes on that machine was more of a workout than I get in a hour at the gym."

Fortunately, massage therapists were on hand to rub out the cramps.

In the end, the Marines peddled 119.3 miles over the six hours.

The distance wasn't good enough for first, as an Air Force ROTC unit from the University of Pittsburgh took the top spot.

"In all honesty, we wouldn't have beaten (the Marines) if we didn't have so many guys come in and ride," said John O'Hern, member of the ROTC team. "If we had to ride two or three times each like the Marines did, we wouldn't have made the 100-mile mark."

"This event wasn't about beating out the other services," said Maj. Michael Sherman, RS Pittsburgh commanding officer. "We used Marine manpower to benefit our community and a charitable organization. We pulled together as Marines, worked hard and had fun doing it. Everything about today has been a positive experience for all."

District News

MCCS-SC unveils new War Memorial Gym on Depot

Cpl. Jennifer Brofer

STAFF WRITER

Depot personnel laced up their sneakers and hit the court of the completely revamped War Memorial Gym March 3, after Col. Michael Malachowsky, Depot Chief of Staff, and Ben King, Director of Marine Corps Community Services-South Carolina, cut the ribbon to the new gym, unveiling the improvements within.

The gym, aptly named when it was built after World War II, had been in use for more than 50 years, and was in dire need of a facelift, said Bill Brown, athletic director for the Combat Fitness Center, who set to work refurbishing the gym two years ago.

Anyone who had ever used the old gym, with its tattered floor, peeling paint and unserviceable lighting, would have agreed that it was time for a change.

"The whole floor had to be replaced and refinished, and the walls had to be painted," said King, who added that the gym was previously used as an auditorium for recruit training in the early 1950's. "It also needed new basketball goals and new seating."

Giving the gym a complete facelift, which included repainting all the walls, installing new lighting, bleachers, basketball goals and a brand-new floor, cost approximately \$880,000, according to Brown.

"It's totally improved – the Marines have a great new facility here," said Lt. Cmdr. Charles Mendoza, Depot Public Works offi-



Colonel Michael Malachowsky, Depot Chief of Staff, and Ben King, Director of MCCS-SC, unveil the completely revamped War Memorial Gym in a ribbon-cutting ceremony March 3. The gym had been closed for nearly two years to repaint the walls, install new flooring, bleachers, lighting and basketball goals.

cer. "The detail they did on the floor is outstanding."

In addition to the new gym, MCCS-SC representatives are also looking forward to two new racquetball courts and a cardiovascular room, which are expected to be completed sometime between May and August, added Mendoza.

The new gym, which features enough bleachers to accommodate more than 600 people, can be used for basketball and volleyball, indoor circuit courses, as well as group aerobics.

The nearly two years it took to ren-

ovate the gym were well worth the wait, according to Fitness Center patrons.

"This is the best basketball court I've seen, and I've been in a ton of military facilities and military gyms," said Malachowsky, who was already eager to use the new court to shoot some hoops. "This basketball court is the exact same court that the Atlanta Basketball Team has, so this is state-of-the-art. It's going to mean a lot to our Marines and everybody else who is going to use the facility."

Anyone who wishes to use the new gym is advised to make an appoint-



Lance Cpl. Brian Kester

Players take advantage of open-court time during a pick-up game at the Depot's War Memorial Gym March 1. The new gym is open for hoops daily during lunch hours from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ment before use. Also, gym users may only wear athletic shoes and must carry them in separately, so as to avoid tracking in outside dirt and debris.

War Memorial Gym hours of operation are Monday – Friday, 5 a.m.- 9 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, call the

Depot ethnicity to merge at multicultural extravaganza

Cpl. Alisha R. Fitzgerald

STAFF WRITER

The first meeting of the Tri-Command Multicultural Committee took place at the Depot Human Resources Office Feb. 26.

The committee, headed by Cynthia Golson, Tri-Command Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, was created to establish a new annual event to celebrate and recognize all the different ethnicities of Tri-Command personnel and their families.

The event is expected to offset the established annual observances that are celebrated individually throughout the Tri-Command.

"Everyone can still celebrate their particular observance," said Golson. "It just won't be the month that it is normally celebrated."

While there are only eight different heritages that currently have an established celebratory month, Golson said the new multicultural event will provide an opportunity for all ethnic groups to commemorate their traditions and history.

"I have people email me all the time, asking, 'When are we going to have Italian day? When are we going to have Portuguese day?'" said Golson. "The ones that we cel-

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– Cynthia Golson, Tri-Command Equal Employment Opportunity Officer

brate were already mandated, but with the multicultural, we'll be able to incorporate all the different cultures, and nobody will be left out."

Since Golson makes up the entire EEO staff, the new format will be more conducive to her workload, allowing for more time and energy to be put in this event.

"This is going to be our first attempt, so there will be some trial and error, but we hope that it will be a huge success," she said. "We can even expand on it next year. It could end up being the annual event that people talk about."

While details for the event are still in their forming stages, Golson said she already has somewhat of an idea how it will take place. She and the other committee members are projecting a date for late June, with activities cover-

ing a two-day period. Some of the activities being discussed include: a luncheon with a guest speaker, evening social hour, and an outdoor expo with demonstrations, dances, displays and competitions.

"It's really going to require everyone's support," said Golson. "We need volunteers to be able to have adequate representation from all different cultures. I also want to try to get the younger Marines and sailors out there for this."

Golson is currently holding meetings every other week with those who want to help out and be a part of the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m., March 25 at the Depot Human Resources Office. For more information or to volunteer, call Golson at 228-2647.